

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

A neglected *Spartina*.— During the past two or three years I have received from Florida, Mississippi and Texas, specimens of a *Spartina* which I was at first disposed to consider new, but which I now think is *S. junciformis* ENGELM. & GRAY, described in the *Boston Journal of Natural History* v. (1845) p. 238. It is evidently the *S. gracilis* of Chapman's Flora, but not at all the true *S. gracilis* TRIN. (not Hooker), which is well described by Mr. Watson in the Botany of the Fortieth Parallel as having "4 to 10 spikes, mostly sessile and appressed to the rachis, with the glumes and lower palet (floral glume) ciliate-hispid on the keel." It is a species of the Rocky Mountain region and the Pacific coast. The *S. junciformis* seems to be confined to the Gulf region, and may be described as follows:

Culms stout, smooth, 3 to 4 feet high; leaves involute, those of the radical tufts 1 to 2 feet long, those of the culm 5 or 6, generally involute, rigid, narrow, smooth, the lower 1 foot long, the upper shorter; ligule a very short hairy fringe, lower sheaths mostly shorter than the internodes, the upper longer; panicle spike-like, 5 to 10 inches long, dense, often cylindrical, tapering at the apex, composed of 30 to 50 or more sessile, imbricated, appressed spikes or branches, which are from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 1 inch long at the apex, the lower ones longer and less dense; spikelets $2\frac{1}{2}$ to a little over 3 lines long, the upper empty glume a little longer than the floral glume, the lower one $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$ shorter, both hispid on the keel, both very shortly mucronate, or sometimes without the mucro; floral glume slightly hispid on the back, obtuse; palet smooth about equaling its glume.

Florida, *J. H. Simpson*; Mississippi, *Prof. S. M. Tracy*; Texas, *G. C. Nealley*. Probably confined to the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico.

Prof. Scribner, to whom I sent specimens of this *Spartina*, states that the same was collected last year by Mr. Pringle in Mexico, and that he identified it as *S. densiflora* BRONG. which is a native of Chili. He also states that *S. Gouini* FOURN., Mex. Pl. Enum. Gram. p. 135, is apparently the same. It may be doubted whether the Chilian species is the same as our plant; perhaps only an inspection of specimens will enable us to determine; but if Fournier's plant is the same, his name must give place to that of Engelmann and Gray, as that was published many years earlier.—GEO. VASEY, *Dep't of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*